

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 555

In Memory
of
Barbara Ann Kazen

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Laredo in mourning the loss of noted philanthropist and civic leader Barbara Ann Kazen, who died March 15, 2011, at the age of 70; and

WHEREAS, She was born Barbara Ann Sanders in Abilene on January 3, 1941; she attended Texas Christian University and The University of Texas at Austin, where she met her future husband, George P. Kazen; they were married in Abilene on October 27, 1961; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kazen was a highly respected citizen and longtime leader in the Laredo community; she was renowned for her impeccable character, her passion for helping others, and her dedication to humanitarian work; she focused much of her time on working to improve public health, beginning in the 1960s when she first joined the American Cancer Society and coordinated campaigns to spread information and raise funds for cancer research; and

WHEREAS, She served in various roles as an auxiliary member of Mercy Regional Medical Center, now known as Laredo Medical Center; she coordinated the DARE program and served as its vice president and president; her work helped the hospital provide health care services for victims of domestic violence, persons addicted to drugs, and those who suffer from catastrophic illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kazen had a long history of working to improve the conditions of the poor and otherwise disadvantaged; she served on the board of directors of the Texas Homeless Network and was a founding member and vice president of the Laredo Homeless Coalition; and

WHEREAS, She was the founder of Bethany House of Laredo and served on its board of directors for more than 25 years and as its president since 1996; she worked tirelessly to expand its services to include an extensive soup kitchen operation, a shelter complex with a central clearinghouse for homeless and indigent services, and a store for clothing, linens, and furniture; and

WHEREAS, She served on the board of directors of the United Way of Laredo and gave generously of her time and resources to improve the arts community; she was a lector and Eucharistic minister at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, One of her more recent philanthropic efforts was the founding of the Laredo Area Community Foundation, on whose board she also served; the foundation acts as a catalyst in developing a permanent endowment to enable effective responses to community needs and to help coordinate the efforts of charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Kazen was a member of the Society of Martha Washington and portrayed Martha Washington in 1989 at the organization's 50th anniversary celebration; she has received numerous awards over the years for her outstanding service to her community; and

WHEREAS, She received many honors over the course of her life; she was named Woman of the Year by the Catholic War Veterans and Tejano Achiever by the League of United Latin American Citizens; she received the Service Above Self Award from the Laredo Rotary Club and was named to the Laredo Commission for Women's Hall of Fame; she was selected the 2010 Outstanding Texas Local Leader by the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute Annual Forum; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Kazen was a gracious and generous woman who has left an indelible imprint in the Laredo community, and she will long be remembered by the scores of people whose lives she touched; her many friends and her devoted family will treasure forever their memories of the beloved wife, devoted mother, and loving grandmother who blessed their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Barbara Ann Kazen: her husband, United States District Court Judge George P. Kazen; her sons and daughters-in-law, George and Mary Kazen, John and Hayley Kazen, and Gregory and Marcinda Kazen; her daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Michael Flores; her brother, James Lee Sanders; her sisters, Judith Compton and Virginia "Bitsy" Dotin; and her nine grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Barbara Ann Kazen.

Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 17, 2011, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate